

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 7-12-63

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: BURTON STEPHEN LANCASTER:
TONY FRANCIOSA

CAHOF
MOVIE ACTOR

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/29/96 BY SP3 BTJ/L
399,946

Tolson ☒
Belmont ☒
Mohr ☒
Casper ☒
Callahan ☒
Conrad ☒
DeLoach ☒
Evans ☒
Gale ☒
Rosen ☒
Sullivan ☒
Tavel ☒
Trotter ☒
Tele. Room ☒
Holmes ☒
Gandy ☒

A United Press-International News Service release of July 9, 1963, reported that Burt Lancaster and Tony Franciosa joined other celebrities at a meeting in Beverly Hills, California, aimed at "peaceful steps to speed up integration" in their community. Dr. Christopher L. Taylor, local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) leader, addressed the session. Mr. Tolson noted, "What do files show on Lancaster and Franciosa?"

INFORMATION IN BUFILES:

There are no main files on either Lancaster or Franciosa.

Summary
The "Motion Picture and Television Almanac" reflects that Burton Stephen Lancaster, also known as Burt Lancaster, was born in New York City on November 2, 1913. He was educated at New York University and later was a circus acrobat in Vaudeville. He served in the U. S. Army in Special Service during World War II in Italy and North Africa. He made his screen debut in "Killers" in 1946.

In 1947 Lancaster reportedly signed a statement released by the National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions (NCASP), asking Congress to abolish the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HCUA). NCASP was cited as a communist front by the HCUA and by the Internal Security Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee. In addition, Lancaster was affiliated with the "Committee for the First Amendment" which protested the activities of the HCUA. He was one of 26 movie stars who flew to Washington in October, 1947, to protest against HCUA investigations.

On June 28, 1957, Lancaster requested a special tour of the Bureau and also requested to meet the Director. In regard to the recommendation that he meet Lancaster, the Director noted, "I will not in view of his subversive association." Lancaster did not appear at the Bureau for the tour but his wife, two sons and five other relatives of his wife were taken on a special tour.

55 JUL 23 1963
In February of 1960 the Office of Naval Intelligence conducted a raid on the residence of [redacted] who is described as a millionaire and a notorious homosexual.

1 - Mr. Tolson

RWG:cho

REC-101

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CRIME RESEARCH

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M. A. Jones to DeLoach
RE: BURTON STEPHEN LANCASTER;
TONY FRANCIOSA

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[redacted] required that guests register when visiting his home and this register reportedly contained the name of Burt Lancaster and other Hollywood celebrities. The raid was conducted because it had come to the attention of Marine authorities that 250 Marines had been frequenting [redacted] mansion.

In November of 1955 a potential criminal informant of the New York Office advised that he had attended parties at the home of a wealthy homosexual, [redacted] and that Burt Lancaster was among the members of the entertainment profession who also attended these parties. In April of 1956 the Office of Naval Intelligence obtained a signed statement from a sailor who had deserted and he advised that he had attended several "homosexual parties" at the home of [redacted] Beverly Hills, California. He stated that he saw Burt Lancaster at one of these parties. In August of 1962 Central Intelligence Agency forwarded a letter from an individual who stated that he had noted with alarm that Lancaster was among those in Hollywood who desired to make pictures with strong social commentary. He pointed out that these pictures dwelt on injustices against minority groups and injustice committed by society.

The only reference concerning Tony Franciosa in Bufiles is in connection with a previous meeting held in Los Angeles concerning racial problems. This rally was held at Wrigley Field on 5-26-63 and was sponsored by the NAACP. The featured speaker was Reverend Martin Luther King who made the statement that segregation should end in Los Angeles and that President Kennedy should personally escort Negro students into the University of Alabama.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

V.

